

What is claimed:

1. A method of treating diabetes in a subject, comprising
 - (a) administering to the diabetic subject an immunotoxin, thereby reducing the subject's T-cell population; and
 - (b) administering to the subject pancreatic islet cells from a donor.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetes is Type I diabetes.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the diabetes is Type II diabetes.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunotoxin transiently reduces the subject's T cells in the blood and lymph nodes by at least one log unit.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunotoxin is a divalent anti-T cell immunotoxin directed at the CD3 epitope.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the divalent anti-T cell immunotoxin comprises a toxin moiety and a targeting moiety directed to the T cell CD3 ϵ epitope.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the toxin moiety is a diphtheria toxin.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein the divalent anti-T cell immunotoxin is UCHT1-CRM9.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering an immunosuppressive agent to the subject.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the immunosuppressive agents are administered beginning 0 to 24 hours prior to administration of the pancreatic islet cells to the recipient and continuing up to several weeks thereafter.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the immunosuppressive agent is selected from the group consisting of cyclosporine, mycophenolate mofetil, methyl prednisolone, deoxyspergualin, and any combination thereof.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the immunotoxin is administered beginning at up to several hours before administration of the pancreatic islet cells and continuing up to several days thereafter.
13. A method of inhibiting a rejection response of a recipient of a pancreatic islet transplant by inducing immune tolerance in the recipient, comprising administering an immunotoxin during the peritransplant period, thereby transiently reducing the number of T-cell lymphocytes and promoting long-term survival of the transplant.